

Native Plants for Pollinator Gardens

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Why Natives?

- Native plants and pollinators evolved together
- Cultivars are bred for specific traits like color and double flowers, and often produce less or no pollen
- Prevent invasive species

Photo credit: Prairie Moon Nursery

What do Pollinators Need?



Bee Nesting Habitat





Nesting Sites

- Bare Ground
- Dead Stems
- Dead Wood
- Grasses and Sedges



Nesting Materials

- Leaf pieces and hairs
- Plant resins
- Mud and pebbles



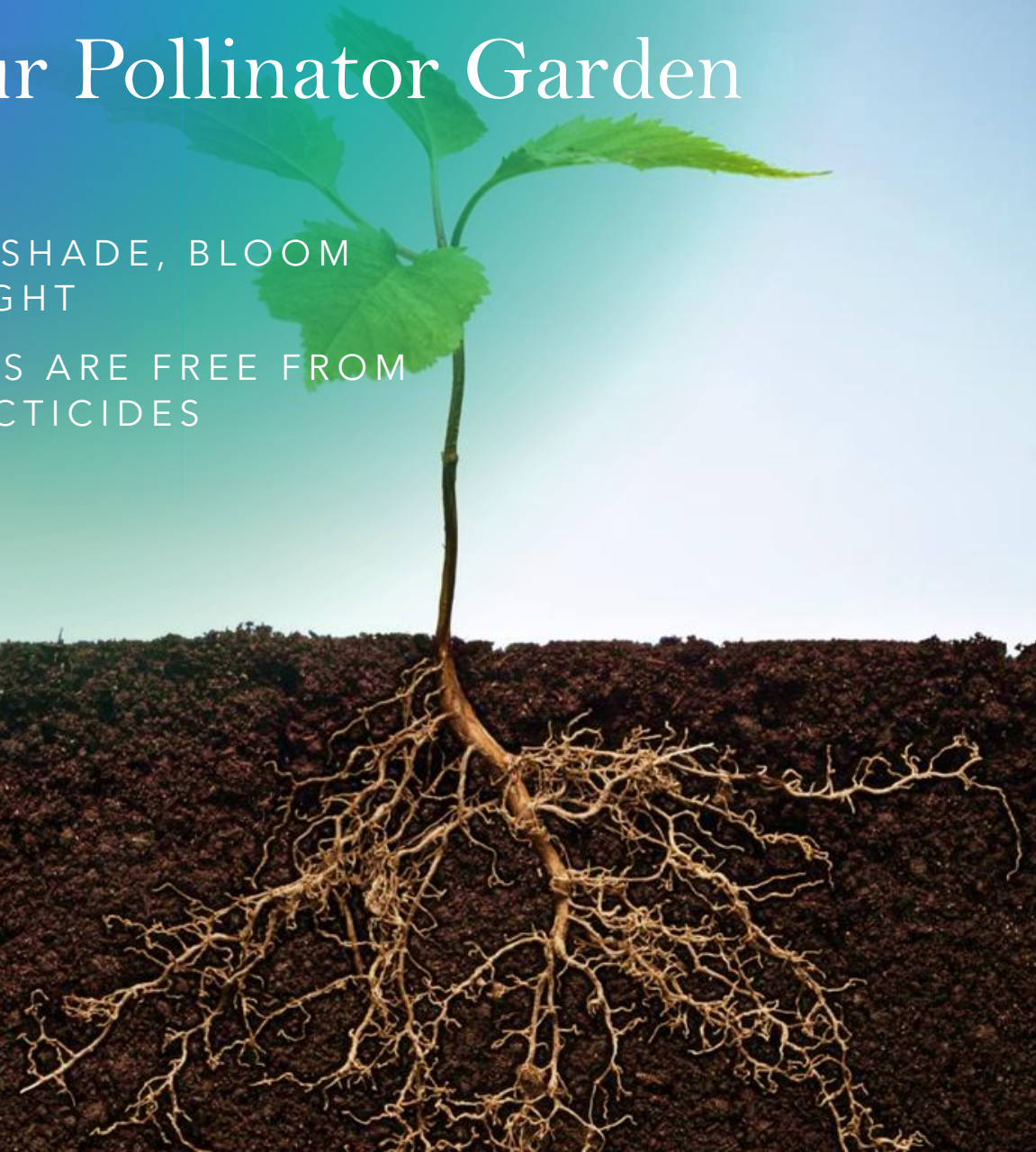
Larval Food



Choosing Plants for your Pollinator Garden

CONSIDER SOIL, SUN/SHADE, BLOOM
TIME, HEIGHT

MAKE SURE YOUR PLANTS ARE FREE FROM
SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES





Spring Flowers

Trees

Maple species
Willow species
Cherry species

Shrubs

Serviceberries
Black Chokeberry
Dogwood species
Viburnum species

Spring Ephemerals

Jacob's ladder
Virginia bluebells
Wild geranium
Solomon seal



Pussy Willow

Salix discolor

Full Sun

Average to Wet Soil

Tolerates flooding

Provides:

Earliest Pollen

Photo credit: Prairie Moon Nursery



Wild Plum

Prunus americana

Full Sun to Part Shade
Average garden soil

Provides:

Nectar and Pollen

Food for Cecropia
Moth larvae

Edible fruit





Jacob's Ladder

Polemonium reptans

Part Shade to Full Shade
Average garden soil
Deer resistant

Provides:
Pollen and Nectar



Wild Columbine

Aquilegia canadensis

Full Sun to Full Shade
Very adaptable

Provides:

Nectar for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

Flowers edible for people too



Golden Alexanders

Zizia aurea

Full Sun to Light Shade
Very adaptable

Provides:

Nectar and Pollen

Food for Black Swallowtail
Butterfly larvae



Photo credit: Prairie Moon Nursery



Mid-Season Flowers

Trees

American Basswood

Shrubs

Diervilla

Black Elderberry

Roses

Sumacs

Perennials

Wild Indigos

Coneflowers

Wild Bergamot

Anise Hyssop

Purple Prairie Clover

Oxeye Sunflower

Penstemons

Coreopsis



Prairie Wild Rose

Rosa arkansana

Full Sun

Average garden soil

Drought tolerant

Provides:

Nectar and Pollen

Nesting Material for Leaf-cutter Bees



Photo Credit: Prairie Moon Nursery



Smooth Sumac

Rhus glabra

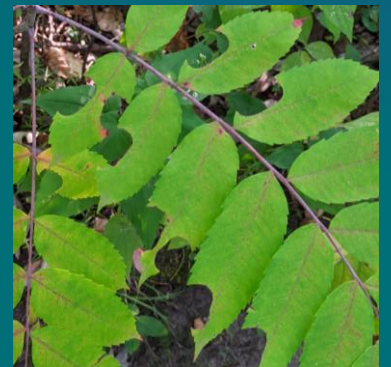
Full Sun to Part Sun
Average soil

Provides:

Pollen and Nectar

Nesting sites for
Stem-nesting bees

Nesting materials for
Leaf-cutter bees





Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

Full Sun

Sandy Soil

Drought tolerant

Provides:

Nectar and Pollen

Food for monarch
butterfly larvae



Photo Credit: Prairie Moon Nursery



Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Full Sun to Part Shade
Very adaptable

Provides:

Nectar and Pollen

Nesting sites for Stem-nesting
bees

Immune system benefits for
bumble bees

Photo Credit: Prairie Moon Nursery



Anise Hyssop

Agastache foeniculum

Full Sun or Part Shade
Average garden soil

Provides:

Nectar and pollen

Nesting sites for stem nesting bees

Licorice scented tea



Late-Season Flowers

Perennials

Joe-pye Weeds
Blazingstars
Sunflowers
Ironweed
Cup Plant
Asters
Goldenrods

Grasses

Prairie Dropseed
Little bluestem
Side-oats grama
Indian Grass
Big Bluestem



Meadow Blazingstar

Liatris ligulistylis

Full Sun

Medium to Medium-Wet Soils

Tolerates flooding

Provides:

Nectar and Pollen

Nectar for Monarch Butterfly
Migration

Photo credit: Prairie Moon Nursery



Smooth Blue Aster

Symphyotrichum laeve

Full Sun to Part Sun
Average garden soil

Provides:

Nectar and Pollen

Food for Silvery Checkerspot and
Pearl Crescent butterfly larvae

Photo credit: Prairie Moon Nursery



Zig Zag Goldenrod

Solidago flexicaulis

Part Shade to Full Shade
Average garden soil

Provides:

Pollen and Nectar
Flower Fly Favorite



Photo credit: Prairie Nursery

Maintaining Your Pollinator Garden

Year 1:

Remove perennial weeds before you plant

Water 1 inch/week

Mulch to prevent annual weeds from growing

Remove weeds as they appear

Year 2 and after:

Remove weeds as they appear

Water during prolonged dry spells

Cut dead plant stems in the spring to 8 to 24 inches

Allow fallen leaves to remain as a mulch in shady gardens



Weeds to Watch Out For

- Burdock
- Creeping Bellflower
- Quack Grass



Bell's Honeysuckle



Common Tansy



Common Buckthorn



Canada Thistle

Noxious Weeds

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/minnesota-noxious-weed-list>



Don't

Fertilize

Use landscape fabric

Use systemic insecticides

**Apply pesticides when plants
are flowering**

Over water

Do

Start small

Weed regularly

Keep cut stems in the garden

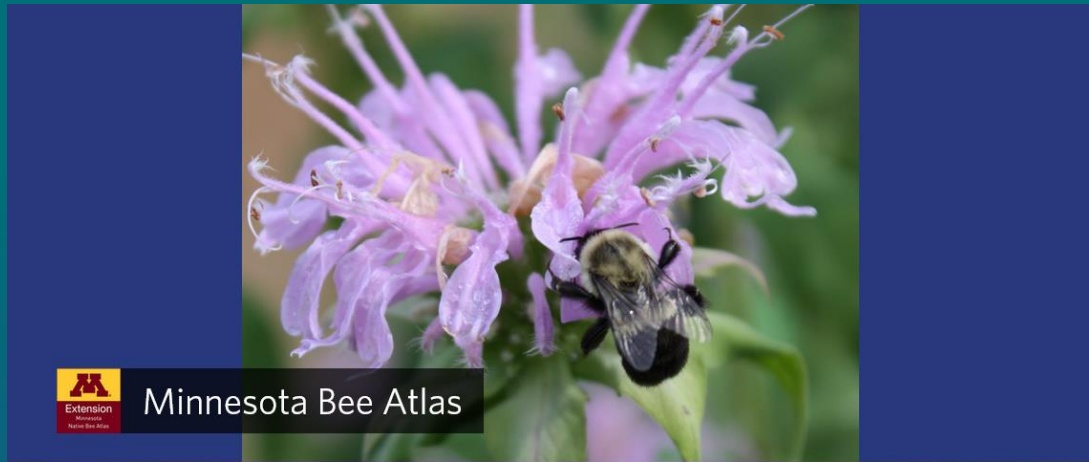
Provide a clean water source

Enjoy!

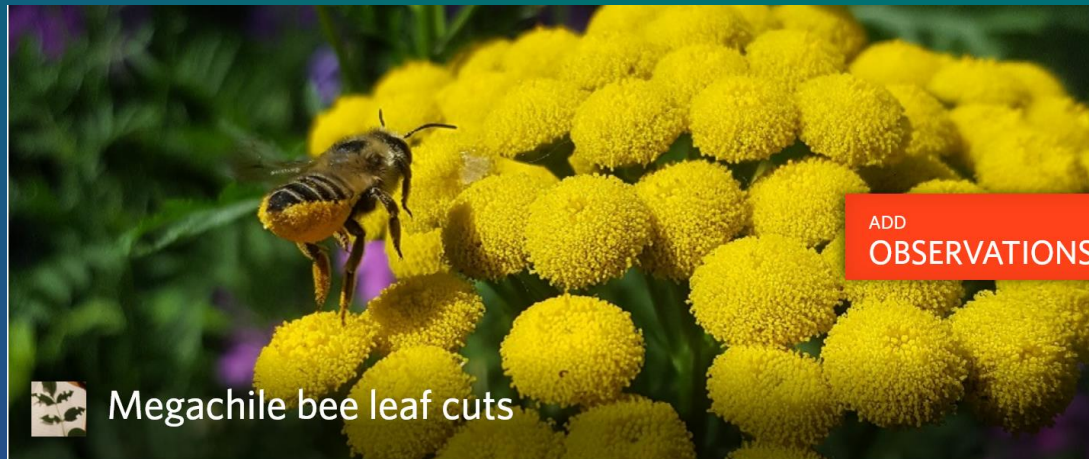
Resources

- <https://www.beelab.umn.edu>
- <https://metroblooms.org/>
- <http://bwsr.state.mn.us/pollinator-toolbox>
- <https://www.pollinatorfriendly.org>
- <https://xerces.org>

www.inaturalist.org/projects/



minnesota-bee-atlas



megachile-bee-leaf-cuts

Thank You!

